## TWENTY-NINTH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Mospay, January 26, 1846.

IN SENATE. The journal of yesterday having been read, The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate an actional document in relation to the memorial of ce aim officers of the army on the subject of brevned staff rank; which was referred to the Commit

FETTIONS.

Mr. PENNYBACKER presented the petition of the administrators of Richard Harris, and of Nim rod Farrow, deceased, praying for remuneration for loss austained in consequence of the breach of their contract with the United States government by said government in the erection of a fort on Dauphin inland; which was referred to the Committee or Chaires.

Claims.

Mr. STURGEON presented two memorials Mr. STURGEON presented two memorials of citizens of Pennsylvania, praying the construction of harbors on the eastern side of Reedy Island, and at Bomba Hook, in the Delaware river; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. ARCHER presented the petition of William Stark Jett, administrator of Thomas Jett, deceased, praying the payment of certain outstanding loan-office certificates said to have been lost or destroyed; which was referred to the Committee on Revolu-

office certificates said to have been lost or destroyed; which was referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims.

Mr. BENTON presented the petition of James L. Sawyer, praying compensation for services rendered as cierk in the office of the collector of the port of New York; which was referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. CASS presented the petition of Henry Nor Mr. CASS presented the petition of Henry Northrup, praying compensation for a horse, saddle, and bridle lost in the military service of the United States; which was referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. BENTON submitted a document exhibiting the amount of bounties on exported saited provisions, and pickled fish; allowances to vessels employed in the fisheries, and drawback on domestic refined sugar exported, and net duty on salt imported from the commencement of the government, to the 20th June, 1845; which was referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BAGBY presented the memorial of James H. Causten and others, praying the payment of the certificates issued by the United States, under the Mexican convention, to claimants in whose favor awards have been made by said convention; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. ASHLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the petition of citizens of Fortsmouth, N. H., and others, asking for the adoption of measures to secure the amicable adjustment of all international difficulties, asked that said committee be discharged from the further consideration of easid petitions; which was granted.

Mr. A. also, from the same committee, to whom was referred the petition of John A. Ragan, asking compensation for acting as counsel of the United States in a certain suit, asked that said committee be discharged from the further consideration of the petition, and that it be referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs; which request was agreed to.

Mr. A., also, from the same committee, to whom was referred the petition of sundry merchants of the city of New York in relation to seamens' wages, "which was read and passed to a second reading; the petition accompanying the bill was ordered to be printed.

DECISIONS OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

DECISIONS OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

Mr. A., from the same committee, to whomwas referred the petition of Thomas Cowperthwaite togelher with certain resolutions passed by the legislatures of New Hampshire and Georgia, petition gualatures of New Hampshire and Georgia, petition-ing Congress to take measures for the publication of the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, and their distribution among the several States and Territories of the Union, reported a bill to effect eaid object; which was read, and passed to a second reading.

Mr. NILES, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, to whom was referred.

Mr. NILES, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, to whom was referred a petition of inhabitants of Puducah, Kentucky, praying that Francis A. Harrison, postmaster at Paducah, may not be allowed to suffer loss in consequence of the burning of the post office at that place, reported a bill for the relief of said postmaster, which was read, and passed to a second reading.

resolution would be now read, so that in connexion, the amendment which he proposed to submit would be properly understood. The question, in his opinion, was one of great importance. The resolution which had been offered by the senator from Kentucky, as far as it went, was in coincidence, at least, which had been effered by the senator from Kentucky, as far as it went, was in coincidence, at least, with his own views; but he thought it stopped short of the necessities of the case. At all events, he desired that his own views should be presented to his own constituents. He asked that, by the courtesy of the Senate, the resolution of the senator from own constituents. He asked that, by the courtesy of the Senate, the resolution of the senator from Kentucky be first read; and it was read, as follows,

Acentucky be first read; and it was read, as follows, viz:

A RESOLUTION concerning the territory of Oregon. Whereas, by the convention concluded the 90th day of October, 1819, between the United States of America and the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ircland, for the period of ten years, and afterwards indefinitely extended and continued in force by another convention of the easier parties, concluded the 6th day of August 1827, it was agreed that any country that was claimed by either party on the northwest coast of America, weat of the Stony or Rocky mountains, commonly called the Oregon territory, should, together with its harbors, beys, and evers, and the navigation of all rivers within the same, he "free and open" to the exessels, citizens, and subjects of the two powers, but without prejudice to any claim which either of the parties might have to any part of said country; and with this further provision in the 3d article of the said convention of the 6th or August, 1327, that either party might abvegate and annual the said convention, on giving due notice of twelve months to the other contracting party:

And whereas it has now become desirable that the respective claims of the United States and Greet Britain should be definitely settled; and that said territory may no longer than need be remain subject to the evil consequences of the divided allegiance of sa American and Estition popularities, and of the confusion and condicts of national jurisdictions, dangerous to the cherished peace and good understanding of the two countries.

With a view, therefors, that steps he taken for the abrogation of the said convention of the 6th August, 1827, in the mode prescribed in its 3d article, and that the attention of the governments of both countries may be the more earnestly and immediately directed to renewed efforts for the softens for the countries of the countries of the said countries may be the more earnestly and immediately directed to renewed efforts for the softens of the fountries may be

the settlement of all their differences and disputes in respect togaid territory;
Resolved by the Senate and Hauss of Representatives of the United States of Agertee in Congress ascended, That the Pessident of the United States be, and he is hereby, sutherized at his discretion to give to the Bitlish government the notice required by lis said 2d article for the abrogation of said convention of the 6th August, 1937. Provided, here ever, That in order to afford ample time and opportunity for the amicable settlement and alignatument of all their differences and disputes in respect to said territory, said notice ought not to be given till after the close of the present session of Congress.

The following is the amendment which Mr. Mansexion of Congress.

The following is the amendment which Mr. Mansex proposes to submit, viz:

Pravide farther. That the said notice shall be accompanied with a proposition from this government, to submit
the claims of the United States and Great Britain to such
territory, to the substration of a person or persons qualified
to determine upon their respective rights in and to the
same, whose decision shall be binding upon both nations.

Resolved, That the Committee on Territories be, and
hereby is, instructed (the House on Representatives concurring) to reports hill organizing a Territorial government
in Oregon, to go into operation at the expiration of the notice aforesaid, terminating the existing convention between
the two governments, unless the President in his discustion and by presidentation shall suspend the same, which he
is authorized to do, until a reasonable time sfer the meeting of the next session of Congress thereafter: Provided,
That, at that time, the right of the respective nations to the
territory in dispute shall not have been definitely determined by negotiation or arbitration: And further. That a
repy of the foregoing presmble and resolutions shall accompany the notice to the government of Great Britain
herein provided for.

The amendment was ordered to be printed for

EUROPEAN INTERPERENCE IN AMERICAN APPAIRS. Mr. ALLEN rose to call up the motion laying on the table a motion made by him some days previous

er, Simmons, Speight, Stargeon, Turney, and Woodbridge—23.

NAYS.—Messrs. Archev. Barrow. Berrien, Calhoun, Commeron, Thomas Clayton, J. M. Clayton, Corwin, Crittenden, Davis, Evans, Greene, Huntington, Jaruagin, Johnson of Louisiana, Mangum, Miller, Pearce, Phelps, Upham, and Webster—21.

Upham, and Webster—21.

So the motion was taken up for consideration.

Mr. CASS then rose, and was proceeding to address the Senate, when he was interrupted by Mr. WEBSTER, who inquired if the question now before the Senate was whether leave should be given to the Senator from Ohio to introduce his resolution.

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This question being answered in the affirmative, Mr. CASS proceeded as follows:
Mr. Passiers. When this subject was before the Senate a few days since, I rose for the purpose of expressing my views briefly upon some points presented for consideration, but I was prevented by the form which the question assumed. I beg leave to do now, what I wished to do then, and to remind the Senate that the honorable senator from S. Carolinias, whose enlarged experience, and whose far higher qualities than experience, demand and command the attention of the Senate and of the country, expressed the opinion, that by the mode of introduction, in passing over the Committee of Foreign Relations, the honorable chairman of that committee, the introducer of the subject, had been wanting in courte-sy to the committee, and perhaps in his duty to the Senate. I cannot thus view this proceeding. The rights of the member from Ohio, as one of the representatives of that State, are not diminished by his position upon the Committee on Foreign Relations. He may at any time bring forward any measure he thinks proper upon his own individual responsibility. And there may well be questions which, from their nature, require unusual solvinity, which may demand a more formal mode of introduction, and to which it may be proper to call the attention of the Senate, in order that the attention of the committee, that it may be there considered and changed, if change is desired necessary, and then be brought forward for discussion here. All this, it seems to me, is courteous towards the committee, and on this ble to the censure of the Senate. It is due to the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations to say that he did mention to myself, and I imagine to other members, his intention to introduce a resolution upon this subject as an individual member of this body. I will add too, sir, that I fully appro and it is very easy tor him, if he thinks proper, with a view to greater unanimity, to make a modifica-tion of a part of his resolution which will leave wholly untouched its general purport, but which will obviate the principal, and, as it strikes me, the only substantial objection I have heard to his prop-

Office and Post Roads, to whom was referred a petition of inhabitants of Puducah, Kentucky, praying that. Francis A. Harrison, postmaster at Paducah, may not be allowed to suffer loss in consequence of the burning of the post office at that place, reported a bill for the relief of said postmaster; which was read, and passed to a second reading.

ALSOLUTIONS.

ALSO the assertion of a great principle—of an everlasting principle—of the right of the independent national upon this hemisphere to be free from the control of the powers of Europe, and an assertion by the oldest of the family of nations upon this continent, made by one for the benefit of all. Nor do I see that it has the least connexion with our controversy with England. That is a question of title. She has got possession, by an improvident act of ours, of a portion of our territory, and we propose to serve her with a notice which may become a notice to quit. But this is quite another matter, having no exclusive relation to England, but involving far other considerations, and leading to far other results. And the English papers which arrived by the mail of yesterday morning, shows the necessity of putting ourselves right upon this great question. The strangest misapprehension, or I might rather say misrepresentation, prevails on this subject in England. The Spectator and the Times—the former, rather fairly disposed, and the latter disposed for all mischief—both represent the President's declaration upon this subject as a direct interference with the rights of European powers holding possessions upon this continent. And stranger yet, the Spectator represents the measures proposed by the President, as the consequence of the very principle denounced by him. It states "that the immediate application of the abstract principle is made to Oregon;" and then adds, that "the President advises Congress to arm and organize the militia that they may be prepared to receive all communities already settled we have a subject to the president and the nadds, that "the President advises Congress to arm and organize the militia that they may be prepared to receive all communities already settled we have the proper of the president and the president and the nadds, that "the President advises Congress to arm and organize the militia that they may be pre-

of the abstract principle is made to Oregon;" and then adds, that "the President advises Congress to arm and organize the militia that they may be prepared to receive all communities already settled on the North American continent tinto the boson of the Union, and prevent the colonization of any part of the continent by European nations." A more impudent perversion of a public document was never made; but it will run its race, and fuffil its task, and many an honest Englishman will believe that this government is eecking with the strong hand to seize the British colonies. The Times, as usual, is yet bolder in its denunciation, and more reckless in its assertions. It says: "Mr. Polk declares in the most explicit language, that so far as the continent of North America extends, the United States are determined to warn off every intruder." "Hence they not only assessite particular rights and possessions of their neighbors, upon which at one time or another they chanes to have cust their furtive eyes, but they violate the whole system of the political economy of the world, and proclaim a direct hostility to all the principles of civilized nations." "Nay, we must also infer from the language of the President that existing rights and settlements are held by a questionable tenure; and that all the various dependencies of Britain, Russia, Spain, France, Holland, Belgium, and the Baltic powers, in and about the soil of North America, await the application of the grand principle of absorption, whilst the independent governments of Bultie powers, in and about the soil of North America, await the application of the grand principle of absorption, whilst the independent governments of a purely American character, such as Mexico and Guatemala, are already condemned to successive spoliations. We are not now pleading our own cause in the question of Oregon, or writing with reference to the encroachments which must ere long be directed against the oldest British settlements in North America, if such a principle as this is allowed to prevail. For the maintenance of those rights we are to look directly to the strength of England which inspires a secret dread, even to those who have ceased to acknowledge the obligations of faith and justice." "If such principles as these are to regulate the policy of America, and the relations of States on that continent, how long will they be excluded from Europe? The fashion of attacking dubious claims into rights, will soon find its application here in the apirit of the factious minority

for leave to introduce a joint reso'ution in reference to the interference of foreign powers in the affairs of this continent. He reminded the Senate that he had given notice that on last Friday he would move the Senate to take up that motion; but, as the Senate to take up that motion; but, as the Senate that he adjourned over on Thursday last till that day, (Monday,) he had not had the opportunity of making his motion at the time he had named. He therefore embraced the present occani of submitting to the Senate the motion to take from the table the motion submitted by him on a previous day. He called for the yeas and nays on the question.

Mr. BAGBY wished to know what was the motion that lay on the table?

The PRESIDENT. The motion for leave to introduce a joint resolution.

After a short conversation, in which Messrs. BAGBY, SPEIGHT, and MANGUM took part, and the precise nature of the question before the Senate, and the precise nature of the question before the Senate, and the precising officer having stated it to be on the taking up from the table the considerant to the on the taking up from the table the considerant to the precise nature of the question before the Senate, and the precising officer having stated it to be on the taking up from the table the considerant to be on the taking up from the table the considerant to be on the taking up from the table the considerant to be on the taking up from the table the considerant to be on the taking up from the table the considerant to be on the taking up from the table the considerant to be on the taking up from the table the considerant to be on the taking up from the table the considerant to be on the taking up from the table the considerant to be on the taking up from the table the considerant to be on the taking up from the table the considerant to be on the taking up from the table the considerant to be on the taking up from the table the considerant to be on the taking up from the table the considerant to be on the taking up from the table the considera

power in any other light than as a manifestation of an unfrieddly disposition towards the United States."

Mr. Polk says: "Existing rights of European nations should be respected." What can be more just or more explicit? As to what is called the principle of anti-colonization, it is thus announced by Mr. Monroe, and repeated by Mr. Polk: "The American continents, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintained, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European power." All this is very clear and very just. It means that the independent States upon this continent are not again to be reduced to European colonies. "The people of the United States," says Mr. Polk, "cannot, therefore, view with indifference attempts of European powers to interfere with the independent action of the nations on this continent." "But in regard to the continents," says Mr. Monroe, "circumstances are evidently and conspicuously different. It is impossible that the allied powers should extend their political existence to any portions of either continent, without endangering our peace and happiness. Nor can any one believe that our southern brethere, if left to themselves, would adopt it of their own accord. It is equally impossible, therefore, that we should behold such interference in any form with indifference."

And yet two eminent English journals, and yery And yet two eminent English journals, and very

It is equally impossible, therefore, that we should behold such interference in any form with indifference."

And yet two eminent English journals, and very probably more, have, with great obtibleness of intellect, or from some worse motive, represented the doctrine this kild down as the assertion of a principle which would not only prevent European powers, possessing colonies upon this hemisphere, from improving them and augmenting their population by emigration, but also from holding them. Both Mr. Monroe and Mr. Polk well knew that from the artic circle to Cape Horn, this continent was divided into independent States and European colonies. There is not a foot of it which is not thus held or claimed. They both disclaimed all interference with European rights; and in the very measage of Mr. Polk amnouncing this doctrine, he announces also that he had made a proposition to England by which, if accepted, she would have secured a most extensive and valuable region upon the Pacific. No one out of a lunatic asylum, or who ought to be out of it, can suppose that while stating this offer, he could state also that England could not occupy nor settle nor improve the country. His views, as well as those of his predecessor, are clear enough if no perversion is sought. The status quo of the independent nations is to exist. They are not be converted into colonies. No system of colonization is to be again applied to them. Mr. Monroe's principle of non-interference extends to the whole continent. Mr. Polk's, with more caution, is limited to North America, as that portion of the continent more immediately connected with our rights and our interests. But both proceed upon the same general principle, that such an interference cannot take place without injury to us, and that we may therefore justly protest against it. And it is not a fittle singular, considering the opposition in the Schildt to the very consideration of this subsett, that Mr. Monroe should have kated that, "It is gratifying to know that some of the possession of

Spain to put down the spirit of liberty, and an Austrian army to Italy for the same purpose; and which watches and wards off the very first instincts of human mature to meliorate its ascial and political condition.

It is the assumption of a power which enables a present—to govern just as much of the world as will not or cannot resist their cupdity and ambition, and to introduce new principles at their pleasure, and to their profit, into the code of nations. To proclaim that the slave-trade is piracy by virtue of their proclaimation, and that their cruisers may sweep the ocean, seeiing vessels, and craws, and cargoes, and committing them to that great vortex which has swallowed up such a vast amount of our property, and issued so many decrees against on the shall be piracy, or that the tobacco-trade shall be piracy, or that neything else shall be piracy

of action, if there is any attempt practically to apply the doctrine. "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Let it suffice to us to decide when the time for decision comes; and then, if we are committed by nothing but a protest, we may sit still honorably, taking no part in the transaction, or we may place ourselves between Europe and America, and commit this great question to the issue of war—and to that issue it will finally come if not abandonel—and be resisted in the words of the President's message, stronger than the language used by the member from Ohio in his resolutions, "at any and at all hazards."

I have already alluded to Buenos Ayres, where France and England are now interfering to their heart's content. Their conduct upon the La Plata is among the most outrageous acts of modern times. If I understand their professions, they wage war against Buenos Ayres because Buenos Ayres is at war with Montevided. They are fighting for peace; doing evil that good may come. But what right have they to interfere in the quarrel between two independent nations, except as the friend of both, and in the interest of both? They come not, however, with the olive branch, but with fleets and armies. They carry on open war; they preach a crusade of philanthropy from the quarter-decks of ships of the line, and from the midst of regiments of soldiers. Now all this is a firmsy veil to conceal far other designs; designs of commercial and political ascendancy upon the immense and productive countries of that great river. They seek the estabilishment of a balance of power, which shall establish their own power, and enable them to hold in subjection one of the most magnificent regions upon the face of the earth. To give proper weight and solemnity to any measure upon this great question under consideration, requires the action of Congress.

The declaration of the President will be as harren as was that of Mr. Monroe unless adopted by the national legislature. The President is the organ of communication of the President w

Mr. President, we shall lose nothing at home or abroad, now or hereafter, by establishing and maintaining an American policy—a policy decisive in its spirit, moderate in its tone, and just in its objects—proclaimed and supported firmly, but temperately. Providence has placed us at the head of the family of nations upon this continent. We have passed safely through the great revolutionary trial from a colonial to an independent condition. We entered upon it with great advantages. The principles of true freedom were brought by our forefathers to the New World, and when the struggle for independence commenced it found we appear to the process. New World, and when the struggle for indeper dence commenced, it found us not only ready for the issue, but ripe for the blessings of self-government But the colonies of Spanish descent had not served as we had done, the apprenticeship of liberty; and when they were suddenly called to dissolve their

received by the government, by the last packet, which would at all warrant us in suspending or postponing our measures of defence.

Mr. WEBSTER. Have they received any ad-

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termined to oppose any aid or assistance which such seresign or combination of sovereign may afford to has
for the subjugation of her late colonies above mentions.

"The resolution was agreed to."

Well, that resolution passed the House of Reresentatives, as far as I can see, without a dissentent
voice. It went to the President the President as
swered the resolution, stating that he had no infomation not already communicated to Congress,
which he could communicate with safety to be
public interests. That's what he stated. Did say
man imagine at the time this resolution was infoduced by a mere member of the House of Repssentatives—not as the chairman of a committee, as
as the organ of a committee, but on his own indiriual responsibility—a resolution which went to brect action which proposed to do something on the
instant—which called for facts which had not test
communicated in relation to this very same subjet
embraced in the resolution now before this bodythat any impropriety was committed? Well, is
House of Representatives, as I have stated, passed
that resolution. I have not had time to examithe journal of the House critically, but, so far
my examination has extended; I find that their wa
no opposition to the resolution. And now I comet
another precedent; because, if there are to be utpersonal attacks made upon me as chairman of the benefit by the subjects of the British crown, and the citizens of the United States."

And I feel at liberty to say that nothing has been received by the government, by the last packet, which would at all warrant us in suspending or pestponing our measures of defence.

Mr. WEBSTER. Have they received any advices at all?

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Mr. WEBSTER. Have they received any advices are the surface of the surface of the surface of the most of it, the language of this resolution would have been enforced wherever there was water and wind enough to foat this body. The blow shall reach the objects or the surface or the surface

where the control of the control of